INDIANA UNIVERSITY - PURDUE UNIVERSITY - FORT WAYNE

Wednesday
November 29, 2006

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume 37, Issue 13

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ANNOUNCING IPFW'S ROYALTY

Photo by Nic Pyle

ROYALTY: Senior Nathan Fast and Freshman Nikita Mathews were all smiles moments after being crowned 2006 Homecoming King and Queen.

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29

- Guitar Ensemble. Neff Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

- Spotlight on 3 Health Science Majors, Kettler 243, 4:30 p.m.- 5:45 p.m.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1

- 2006 Opportunity for Indiana Business Plan Competition finals, Kettler 243; presentations at 9 a.m. awards ceremony at 1:15 p.m.
- "Want to Play a Game? Using StudyMate to Develop digital game-based learning," Neff B88, noon-1:20 p.m.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2

- Middle School Honor Band Concert. Walb Ballroom, 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

- Holiday Concert with the Community Orchestra and Choral Union. Scottish Rite Center, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY DECEMBER 4

- "Back to School night- Why take Women's Studies Courses?" Walb Union 222-224-226, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

- Healthy Purdue Wellness Screenings, Walb 222-224, 7 a.m.-10 a.m.

Homecoming Festivities Bring Life to Kettler

■ **Students encouraged to vote during festivities**

By Tanner Guthrie

Free pizza and assorted IPFW goodies brought students to Kettler Hall in flocks during recent Homecoming festivities.

"I have never turned down anything free, so I would have waited in line for an hour. But it only took me fifteen minutes to get some pizza. I even got a free pizza cutter, window scraper, and T-shirt, so I was pretty pumped up," said Jarod Feichter, while explaining his wait in line.

This kind of giveaway is not an everyday occurrence, but Homecoming week brought in loads of freebies.

Thursday featured free Papa Johns pizza and a t-shirt trade-up. If a student brought in an old college t-shirt, they received a brand new IPFW shirt that sported the line "I traded UP" on the back. This was a very popular attraction, especially for a Thursday, which usually seems quiet around campus.

"Thursdays usually suck, but in high school, I had to pay $10 for my homecoming shirt," Feichter said.

"It was free here, plus I got a ton of pizza and free stuff with it. Why not wait around? To me, it was worth it."

This event was also a great place for people to register for the free drawings, which were selected at halftime of the Homecoming game.

Voting for Homecoming queen and king took place as well.

Some of those running for royalty were in the vicinity trying to sway voters in their favor. One of the ladies running for queen even bribed voters with candy as they approached the voting box.

The action didn't stop there; as the pizza excitement filled the basement, the first floor quickly filtered people through the Smoke-out campaign.

This event was held by numerous groups and organizations to convince smokers to drop the habit. The American Cancer Society, Tobacco Free Allen County, IPFW Substance Abuse Council, IPFW/Parkview Health and Wellness Clinic, IPFW Department of Athletics, Recreation and Intramural Sports, and IPFW Dental Education all sponsored the event.

The American Cancer Society offered a graphic brochure with pictures of the lungs and mouth of a smoker who had cancer. The handout encourages friends of smokers to be a support system and not to push their smoking friends to quit.

This attraction, just like the Homecoming festivities, offered plenty of freebies. Booths handed out everything from stress balls, to candy, to turkey sandwiches and students were plentifully populating the surrounding area.

Freebies Not as Easy to Get as Some Students Would Hope

By Stephanie Samples

Homecoming week was just a few weeks ago. The week offered activities, free food, and free t-shirts and ended with the Homecoming game. On Friday, there was IPFW's version of Junk Food Alley. Many students were excited about the week and what it had to offer at no cost. However, for others, the activities and offers were not as convenient as they might have hoped.

"I think there was a lot to offer. The free food and the free t-shirts were a good idea. I didn't wait in the lines because they were too long. It didn't seem to be worth the wait. I don't have classes on Fridays, so I didn't even know about the activities that day. I didn't even hear about it," said senior Laura Doust.

Numerous students missed out on what Homecoming had to offer because of busy school schedules.

Others did not have time to wait in line in between classes. It also seemed that unless students had classes in Kettler Hall, they were not aware of what was going on, campus.

The students that were able to take part in the activities were impressed.

"I didn't think that there was going to be as much going on as there was. I loved all the free stuff; I didn't even care what it was. Anything free is exciting. I think Homecoming is important because it boosts school spirit, and makes your day a little more exciting," said one sophomore.

Students could not receive free items without their student ID cards. While some students appreciated this, others thought it was inconvenient.

"I know the purpose of asking for the ID cards is to prevent non-students from getting the free stuff. But I didn't have my ID with me, so it was a pain," said one student.

Homecoming seems as if it were a success. All around, students were thankful for what it had to offer, but could think of some improvements.

"I think there needs to be more handouts and information about the week. By the time word spread on some stuff, it was too late. I do think that the freebies were a lot better than last year, and even though we lost the game, it was still fun," said one senior.

Whether students were able to take part in all of the activities or not, Homecoming week served to create a little more excitement in the day. After all, who doesn't like getting free stuff, or being offered a free back rub?

Photo by Nic Pyle

Students stand in a long line for hotdogs in Kettler's basement during Homecoming festivities.

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Podium

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All-Consuming Anorexia

By Tiffany Dirig

Coping mechanisms are not an unfamiliar concept. Everyone has them. They all vary; oftentimes, greatly from person to person. Some people write. Some people create great works of art. Some people smoke. Some drink. Still others cut themselves. Then there are people like me who stop eating..

The one thing that I worked so hard to render dormant takes the place of rational thought and I begin to backslide. It's a vicious cycle that I am trying to demolish, but there seems to be no end in sight. It doesn't start as a "weight" thing. It never did. It has always been a control issue for me. Always.

And then, slowly, it morphs into the familiar bitch that is Body Dysmorphic Disorder. For me, it manifests itself as anorexia nervosa.

It is then that I begin to dream of losing just another five pounds. It is then that I pull out my old, "skinny" clothes and try them on, willing that extra bit of fat to dissolve. It is then that I begin wanting to do anything other than eat. It is then that I begin wasting away to nothing.

This is when the morning "fat-check" rears its ugly head. Every morning–and periodically throughout the day–I run my fingers across my belly to assess the latest weight loss (or, God forbid, gain). After being disgusted with myself a little bit more, I vow then and there to eat under "X" amount of calories that day. (It varies from day to day, depending upon how fat I feel.)

At any rate, the original reason behind my self-starvation is lost. Once I have reached this point, I have become utterly and almost irreversibly egocentric. My world disintegrates into nents and what I can and cannot eat.

The weight crumbles. I crumble.

But it's never enough. I pray that, eventually, it will be. I pray that one day, I'll look in the mirror and be happy with my reflection. I pray that one day, when life throws me or my loved ones a curve ball, I am strong enough to deal with it healthily instead of slowly committing suicide.

I suppose one wouldn't assume that anorexia is a disorder that has its iniquitous fingers wrapped around my mind in a vise-like grip. I have not reached that point—at least not on the outside—that people can look at me and just "know."

Yes, my collarbone juts out in angry protest. Yes, I've already had to buy a new wardrobe. Twice. And, yes, I am constantly cold. I push around my food on the plate in front of me, occasionally taking a bite when someone I love looks at me expectantly.

Every bite that makes it to my mouth is mulled over in vehement repugnance. And, after every meal, I try to find a way to sneak, unseen, to a bathroom in an effort to purge what few bits of nutrients that I have ingested. Due to this pattern, I have already lost nearly 25 pounds ... in less than two months.

I know that I am not the only person that struggles with this, especially on this campus. If you or someone you know is having this same problem, or you fear that you or your friend has begun traveling down this dangerous road, there is help available.

You may call on the personal counseling services that IPFW offers. They are located in Walb Union, Room 111. They can also be reached via telephone at 481-6601. All the information shared is completely confidential and free of charge.

PlayStation 3 Vs. Nintendo Wii

Battle of the gaming manufacturers

By Said EL-Dajani

Have you ever thought about getting shot over a gaming console? Well, if you're the owner of a brand new PlayStation 3, plan on applying some kung-fu grip, because as the news has informed us, supply is low, and demand is oh-so-holiday-high. But are there alternatives to your $600 budget, and are the risks lower?

"Well, if you're the owner of a brand new PlayStation 3, plan on applying some kung-fun grip..."

The answer is yes and significantly. Although the PS3 has claimed a 'Borat'-type buzz across our consumer market world, hidden behind the controversy is a unique system which should be considered a true gaming treasure.

Like any product, the majority of advertising is conducted by the people who you are in contact with on a daily or weekly basis. While I've been hearing about people selling PlayStations on eBay for 9 times the retail price, I've heard nothing but great playing reviews for the Nintendo Wii.

Though the new Nintendo system does not offer the same Blue-Ray technology that Sony does, it allows people to actually have fun instead of keeping up with the Jones'.

Nintendo–unlike Sony or Microsoft–has developed an incomparable and ingenious controller, giving people the opportunity to move from their seats and actually 'play' the games. The controllers were designed for the use of both your hands, so that sports become more interactive and responsive to the games.

Developed and marketed for a younger generation, there is nothing hardcore about the Nintendo Wii. The system is about keeping fun healthy and enjoyable for all ages...and definitely not about getting shot.

Smiling: Relieves Stress and Positively Affects You and Others

By Natalie Webb
Managing Editor

Cartoon by Mike Webb

The last few months have been extremely stressful for me. In fact, these trials have led me to hardly smile at all. Stress sucked the happiness that I usually adorned from ear to ear right off my face. But this past week, I evaluated some situations in my life and now have a plan for getting out of the unhealthy situation's in which I've been involved.

This leads me to an important question: am I happier when I smile? Is the overall quality of my life and the lives around me more pleasant when I'm showing off my pearly whites? I want to examine what I've found this past week.

After months of not feeling like myself, I decided to change my attitude and my point of view on my life. I also started smiling again! Then, all of these unusual things started occurring. I started having fun and began enjoying the people with which I spend my life! Good things began happening to me again! I think that good things had been happening during these last few months of gloom, but because of my attitude, I couldn't even see through my sorrow to see the glimmer of a positive situation or instance.

I am also appreciating the experiences that I've been through (even though some of them have not been pleasant or confidence-building). I was clearly put in these situations to learn a lesson. So, why shouldn't I learn from them? I took the time to think about these instances and what I could gain from them that was positive. Now, I feel a million times better. I had tried letting it all go before, but part of me still wanted to hold onto my pride-filled grudges. Until I let all of those feelings go, I couldn't be happy again.

I listened to Alfre Woodard speak and she inspired me. She spoke about the entertainment industry and how she had to be in a constant state of forgiveness. Otherwise, she would never be able to advance or work with anyone.

I gave myself a new mantra after hearing Woodard speak.

"I live in a state of forgiveness! People are not perfect and neither am I!"

In traffic, I started uttering these phrases when I got cut off by a fellow driver. It was much easier not to raise my fist or a certain finger. Instead, I could smile because there's some reason why that person is in hurry, and someday I want someone to forgive me when I anger them.

Because of my change in attitude it really feels like I started smiling and the world started smiling back.

THE COMMUNICATOR

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No Need To Fit The Entire Season Into One Day

By Stephanie Samples

As many of you know last week was the official beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Last Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving is often referred to as Black Friday.

This day is when all of the anxious shoppers come out in the early hours to get their place in line.

In past years these lines have been for Carebears, Cabbage Patch Dolls, and most famous of all the Tickle Me Elmo. This year seemed to be all about the video games. There were new systems games, and it seemed like everyone was in a hurry to get them.

I decided on Friday to stay away from the mall, dealing with the crowds in the morning did not sound like a good time to me. Later in the day I did go out and even in the evening the malls were still packed.

This whole event got me thinking. Why is everyone in such a hurry? Isn't enjoying all of the aspects of the holiday season, what it is really all about?

I know that sometimes shopping can be a pain, but is it necessary to do it all in one day, and be so intense while doing it? I even saw a video of two men getting in a fist fight over a toy. What child would want a present that their parents received by punching someone else in the face.

It amazes me the things that people get excited about. A breakthrough story in the news, or the recent election gets less air time than the discounts at Wal-Mart.

I like anyone else love a great deal, but I don't feel the rush and I realize there are more important things than checking off the Christmas list.

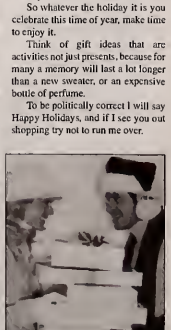
This year I intend to enjoy the holiday season, not rush through it.

The month will go by to fast on its own there is no need to hurry it along. There are so many things to do in the holiday season besides shop, so it would be wise to make sure you make time for a carriage ride, ice skating, or any other favorite holiday activity.

So whatever the holiday it is you celebrate this time of year, make time to enjoy it.

Think of gift ideas that are activities not just presents, because for many a memory will last a lot longer than a new sweater, or an expensive bottle of perfume.

To be politically correct I will say Happy Holidays, and if I see you out shopping try not to run me over.



Black Friday Confuses, Defies Convention

Said Said Something

By Said EL-Dajani

It wasn't until this Thanksgiving that I realized the importance of shopping on a day so evil it could only be called...Black Friday. The connotation is intimidating for all the right reasons, and discussing them will only bring back bad memories But, it's officially the holidays and suppressing our feelings will only make this potentially-uncomfortable season that much healthier.

Said EL-Dajani is a junior Graphic Design major and writes "Said Said Something" for The Communicator. His views do not necessarily agree with those of the newspaper.

First of all, why are all the mega-sales on one day? I thought we all knew that sales were after Christmas–which actually means that Black Friday would be procrastination. If our media isn't lying enough, here's another newly-uncovered conspiracy: Christmas is actually all year round. Wow! I guess those little towns in Germany had it right all along.

What little towns you may ask... Exactly.

So, you wake up early in the morning, it's still dark outside, and your family unites and plots the morning's events to a T–because on Black Friday, there is an itinerary. And as we all know, everything that is planned and assumed to go well, miserably falls apart.

You're two hours late already, but it's okay. So is everybody else. Lucky for you, Aunt Edna camped out at Kohl's last night. A quick phone call might take one item off your list; however, you quickly realize that your cell phone can't reach anyone because everyone in the USA is calling their Aunt Edna. Aunt Edna, on the other hand, had too much eggnog and turkey in the car, which has run out of gas.

You finally hit Collegetown Boulevard two hours behind schedule your worst nightmares are a reality. The parking lots are packed. This morning will become a battle–literally a struggle of man versus vehicle.

As we know, there are times when our mind stops working and we are subconsciously switched to automatic mode, where the car radio is actually our brain. And whenever we need to look closely, we actually turn down the radio.

Black Friday defies these natural rules because of our animalistic tendency for property. We finally spot a parking visual, but so does that other lady. The kids in the back seat tense up, knowing that something is going down, as you take note that your signal light was on first. The lady glances at you, turns her head, and swerves in. You automatically go into Shariqua mode and say, "I know she didn't!!" You're usually the one who doesn't step out of the car and confront, but you see your fellow family member flailing their arms in what appears to be a gibberish of body language that seems to be escalating the situation. Your family wins the battle, and a good story for the grandchildren is founded.

You finally make it into the mall, which has turned into an ocean of sardines. The mall is an interesting domain; it is a place where patience is tested, teriyaki chicken is distributed, and–worst of all–a place where you can run into old "friends."

These friends are no match for the crème vendors close to the fountain. You all know whom I'm talking about. You always pass them, internally laughing at the people who they have trapped into their dialogue schemes, and wondering how much their business grosses in a day.

Black Friday comes to an end and you conclude that when it comes down to it, every day is a Black Friday.

There are no solutions to shopping for other people. We can only change our initial perception so that our self-fulfilling prophecies don't come true.

As Borat would say, "The Friday is black...pause...NOT!"

Situation Leads Student to an Understanding of Betrayal

By Natalie Webb
Managing Editor

I was recently in a situation where I know I was betrayed. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but I just knew something was not right.

The conditions felt exactly like the first viral cold of the season setting in. If you've ever had a cold, you'll understand. One day, everything feels fine. You are healthy and cheery, but those germs are just waiting and festering. They are extremely patient and then suddenly they take a hold of you when you've let your guard down.

These germs suck you into the very poison that it has been waiting to give you and only you, so that you can spread the sickness to everyone you meet. Betrayal works much like that, but its poison is equivalent to hatred.

"These germs suck you into the very poison that it has been waiting to give you and only you, so that you can spread the sickness to everyone you meet."

Betrayal just waits to happen (like I said, it's very patient). When in a relationship with some people, you can just feel it welling. It's like you're waiting for a volcano to erupt.

You're never quite sure when it's going to happen, but you know the time will come when this person will turn on you to go get a better angle to stab you in the back.

In a situation of betrayal, it is sometimes difficult to even grasp what exactly went wrong or what the person did. But you can just feel that something is not right.

How should you handle it when you can feel it happening? Oh, that's a good question. But first, let's discover more about betrayal.

I need something more concrete to help me figure out this feeling of betrayal. I know! I'll go to the dictionary. I went to m-w.com, and this is what I found about betrayal: Betray is a verb. (Well, at least we're getting somewhere.) The word is derived from "Middle English, from be- + trayen to betray, from Anglo-French trahir, from Latin tradere" (ahhhh....traitor!). There are many meanings to the word. "To deliver to an enemy by treachery" and "to fail or desert especially in time of need" seem especially appropriate.

It's all starting to make sense. Betrayal is a sneaky act where people leave you for what they say they never will.

Betrayal occurs when these people forget all of the boundaries that were set to gain their own comfort with no regard for the well being of the friendship or even the group.

Betrayal is like the old saying "all is fair in love and war." Well, not exactly like that. But betrayal is the tipping point where friends become enemies, because there is no longer a grain of trust between them.

If you are feeling betrayed, stop and ask yourself what really happened. What lines were crossed? Were they verbally set or was it a line that was unspoken for, but naturally there?

Here's my rule of thumb for this situation: confront the person gently and explain your side of the story.

Then listen respectfully to his/her side. If they do not respond kindly, remove yourself from the situation. If the two of you cannot work it out after this talk, take a break from relationship.

After a while, go back to the person and try to talk it out again. If this second attempt doesn't gain any peace or clarity for the situation, then just let the friendship and the situation go.

Some things are just better left alone, especially when both parties do not want to share in the rebuilding and sustaining of a friendship.

Cigarette Tax: Un-Republican Move for Governor Daniels

By Curtis Nash

The next legislative session in the Indiana State House promises to be revolutionary in terms of the ways in which the state treats its citizens. The source of the upcoming whirlwinds of change is none other than the Governor, Mitch Daniels.

For a much-criticized politician who many dismiss as a lackey of President Bush, this proposal is a radical departure from pre-conceived notions of the Governor's priorities.

The most startling of the Governor's plans is the proposed implementation of a subsidized health plan for low-income Hoosiers, financed by an increase in the taxes collected from cigarette sales.

This is not the first time that the Governor has proposed an increase in the cigarette tax, but this time he cites a goal of a healthier Indiana.

As reported in the Journal Gazette, "there is no strategy for a healthier Indiana that doesn't involve reducing smoking."

He has promised that 100 percent of the revenue from this new tax will go towards healthcare and anti-smoking initiatives.

But, the most startling fact is that his plan intends to insure those Hoosiers who earn less than twice the poverty level, or $40,000.

There is already a plan in operation in Indiana (Hoosier Healthwise) which insures children; however, the limit on earned income is much lower and leaves most adults uninsured.

> "Conceivably, if the plan is successful in curbing smoking, then less revenue would be generated for the health plan."

There are currently about 500,000 uninsured Hoosiers, and Daniels said in the Journal Gazette article that "if the tax on cigarettes is raised 25 cents, the state could help provide insurance to 120,000 uninsured persons."

A 50-cent hike would insure almost half of uninsured Hoosiers, and so on.

Conceivably, if the plan is successful in curbing smoking, then less revenue would be generated for the health plan. But will smokers quit smoking if cigarettes cost 50 cents more per pack? Not likely.

The current state tax on cigarettes is 55 cents, which is much lower than the tax in many other states, including Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

Those who smoke in those states continue to smoke, even those who do not drive to Indiana to purchase them.

In New York, the price of cigarettes is nearly double the price in Indiana, and smoking is no longer allowed in bars and restaurants.

So, the likely result of the tax hike would be to allow smokers to finance the Governor's new health plan.

Or–as the Governor points out–if people do reduce their smoking due to the higher prices, then people will be healthier and will have lower healthcare costs which need to be insured.

Whatever the result, the impetus for this plan—"a healthier Indiana"—is a very un Republican, almost socialist, goal for the citizens of Indiana. The unlikely source of this proposal implies that there is more to Mitch Daniels' priorities than is publicly-portrayed.

Bleak Friday: Unnecessary Event for Consumers

By Jessica Ruckman

The day after Thanksgiving, known affectionately as Black Friday, is a day in which businesses rake in the huge bucks and get their balances back in the black. I am up at 6:00 a.m., but not to stand in line for hours like some crazed lunatic.

As I chug my first cup of coffee, the lifeblood of my shocked system, I flip on the news just to see if anyone has been shot yet over a PlayStation 3.

As the newscasters plan a reel about the idiots who camped out, I repeat, CAMPED OUT, for their entire Thanksgiving holiday just to be the first to get in the door, I felt my breakfast attempting to creep back up and offer me a refund.

Can someone please tell me why so many consumers feel they must force their way through mobs of crazed, coupon-clipping madmen, just to save ten measly dollars on the "newest & hottest" items?

Just what is so important that someone has to ruin the best and most fat-tastic holiday of the year?

I think to myself as I drive to work, stuck in a 6:30 a.m., shopper-induced traffic jam, that perhaps (and this is just a suggestion–who actually takes advice anyway?) we as Americans need to reevaluate our penchant for over-the-top materialism, and the need to get the bigger, better deal before anyone else does.

Stop and think: does your overweight ten-year-old really need that PlayStation 3or that mountain of mind-numbing video games?

Does your significant other really need those 2-carat diamond earrings which you really cannot afford anyway, regardless of the sale price? (Okay, yes, I need those earrings. Hint hint.) My point is that we have really lost track of what the season is all about: giving.

On your way to the mall, or–if you're really crazy–Best Buy, stop and think of just how many of those houses you drove past are filled with people who couldn't afford Thanksgiving dinner.

How many of those houses had children who had no winter coat to keep them warm? How many of those houses had people who couldn't even afford a good breakfast?

In this season of "giving," I say put the Playstation down, get yourself and your overweight, spoiled rotten kids out of the house, and donate some of your time and your generosity to help someone who will appreciate it for more than a few days.

In doing so, you may just pass on some of that selflessness (which is the true spirit of the season) to someone who really could use a good dose of generosity.

Besides, we all know that PlayStations will drop ridiculously in price anyway. How stupid are you going to feel if you spend $500 on something that will cost less than half that in a couple of months?

Democrats: New Faces, Same Issues

By Matt Middleton

Bitter fighting, questionable leadership and outrageous legislation sounds like the profile of the current lame-duck legislature, right? Actually, these problems have already beset the 110th Congress, which doesn't even start meeting until January! It begs the question of whether or not Americans really voted to change course, or simply elected new faces to the same troubled body.

The difficulty began for Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi just days after the election when she publicly backed Representative Murtha (a combat veteran who is known for being a fellow Pelosi leftist) for House Majority Leader.

He may have done a good job, but Pelosi really needed to think this one through before jumping the gun. Could such a controversial man really take the reigns as majority leader in the House when Democrats are preaching the gospel of bi-partisanship?

This is a congressman who caustically called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, which contradicts every single high-level military suggestion. In addition, while his fellow Democrats set their sights on campaign finance reforms, he carries a scared reputation from being involved in the ABSCAM bribery investigation in 1980.

Following her quick vote of confidence in Murtha, closed-door elections were held in which Murtha was cast aside in favor of moderate Democrat Steny Hoyer. Though the leadership held a press conference exclaiming their unity and new-found leadership, Speaker Pelosi was smiling through the egg on her face.

Not only has this power struggle shaken the vision of internal democratic harmony, but it has also called into question Pelosi's effectiveness as a leader even before she officially takes power.

If all this weren't enough, Representative Rangel of New York has said he will propose (as he did in 2003) to reinstate a military draft. He says that if a draft were to take effect, it would serve as an important buffer for politicians to start war on speculation. Though a recent poll reveals that 7 out of 10 Americans oppose the draft, he vows to press ahead with the legislation.

Most political observers know that the bill has almost no chance of passing.

Now, knowing that the new Congress will face many challenges in the near future, and caution must be taken to fix their predecessors' mistakes–not to create a whole load of new ones.

Editorial Policy

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The Communicator welcomes responses. Letters to the Editor must be signed, dated and accompanied by a current address, telephone number and class standing/ major or title (if applicable). Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered for publication. All submission made via e-mail will be verified by phone or in person. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Submissions must be typed, and no more than 700 words. The editorial board of The Communicator reserved the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, style and clarity. Letters deemed potentially libelous by the editorial board will not be published under any circumstances.

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Sports

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Sports Calendar

11/29 - 12/5

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wed. 29 ■ at Southeast Missouri State 7:00 p.m.

Sat. 2 ■ at Air Force Academy 12:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sat. 2 ■ HDME vs Central Michigan 2:00 p.m.

Tue. 5 ■ at IUPUI 7:00 p.m.

Lady Mastodons Rout Chanticleers

Courtesy of IPFW Athletics Department

Muncie, IN - The Mastodons continued their dominance as they took down the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina at the BSU Credit Union Thanksgiving Tournament in Muncie on Saturday afternoon. IPFW defeated Coastal Carolina, 60-49. They move to the Championship game Sunday afternoon against host Ball State at 3 p.m.

"The ladies came out today with enthusiasm, and maintained that throughout the game," said head coach Chris Paul. "This is the second time this season that we have held a team to zero ties and zero lead changes. Our defense put up a great effort today."

The 'Dons started off strong, taking a seven point lead at the 17:09 mark off of a jumper by Nanyanka Moore. IPFW hit double digits with Tina Moen's three point play, coming after a lay-up and a freebie, which put the 'Dons up, 15-4.

Lewis-Carlisle's jumper at 12:19 put the 'Dons up 21-7. The 14 point lead was their largest of the first half.

The Mastodons finished the half up by nine, 30-21, having never given up the lead.

In the second, the Mastodons jumped back up to a double-digit lead with two good freebies from Johnnia Lewis-Carlisle just 11 seconds into the half.

IPFW took their largest lead of the game at the 14:33 mark as Lewis-Carlisle connected for a 3 point shot to take the 'Dons lead to 15, 42-27. The Chanticleers began to make a cut into the 'Dons lead, taking it to single digits with two freebies by Alisha Dill at the 6:46 mark.

Coastal Carolina continued to use free throws to cut into IPFW's lead, taking it down to six with just under five minutes left in the game. The Mastodons went on an 11-6 run to take down the Chanticleers, 60-49.

"When the Chanticleers got tough, Johnson stepped up and hit the free throws. I thought Juliane Höhne's coming off the bench was very important, Malfait also stepped up, posting her best numbers."

Lewis-Carlisle connected for 16 points and six boards. She was 2 of 5 from beyond the arc and 2-2 from the line. Ashley Johnson was also in double digits with 14 points. She added four boards and was 7-8 from the line and 3 of 9 from the field.

Samantha Edwards led on the defense for the 'Dons with 8 rebounds and one steal. Moore added two steals. Höhne added seven defense boards and four points in 18 minutes off the bench. Lieselot Malfait posted career highs today with five boards and eight points.

"I like our chances tomorrow (against Ball State). The ladies played pretty well today and put forth an all-around good effort."

The Mastodons improve to 3-1, their best start since going Division I.

IPFW faced Ball State at 3 p.m. on Sunday at Worthen Arena on the campus of Ball State for the Championship game of the BSU Credit Union Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Cardinals defeated Howard 92-47 in the first game of the tournament.

The 'Dons next home game is Dec. 2nd against the Central Michigan Chippewas. Game time is 2 PM at the Gates Center.

IPFW Homecoming 2006

Photo By Nic Pyle

DeWitt Scott advances down the court to get the offense started for the Mastodons.

Sycamores Hold Off Mastodons Basketball

Courtesy of IPFW Athletics Department

Fort Wayne, IN - Indiana State had just enough left in the tank to hold off IPFW down the stretch in a 67-61 win over the Mastodons on Sunday afternoon at the Memorial Coliseum.

Even though the Sycamores missed 7 of 12 foul shots with less than three-minutes to play, IPFW couldn't capitalize because of an off shooting night. The Mastodons, who like to shoot the three, were only 7-25 from behind the arc.

The Mastodons led for most of the first half, but Indiana State began to open up a bit of a cushion late and led 37-29 at the intermission.

IPFW (1-3) trailed by as many as 15 in the second half, before mounting a furious comeback. Junior forward Pat Lepper cut the Sycamore lead to single digits (54-45) with a three-pointer at the 8:18 mark. Four consecutive points, in a little over a minute, by senior center Tyler Best drew the Mastodons to within five at 56-51.

The next trip down the floor, ISU junior forward Todd McCoy slashed to the basket but missed his dunk attempt. IPFW pushed the ball the other way and junior forward DeWitt Scott drove to the hoop and was fouled while making a layup.

Scott converted the old-fashioned three-point play to draw IPFW to with two at 56-54. The Sycamore lead remained two, at the 2:53 mark, but ISU began to re-take control of the game. Senior forward Trent Wertz blew past the IPFW defense, at the top of the key, and threw down a two-handed dunk to make the score 60-56.

IPFW would get no closer, as they couldn't capitalize on the spotty foul-shooting of the Sycamores the rest of the way.

The Mastodons finished shooting just 37.3% from the floor, while ISU ripped the cords for 50%. Wurtz was the offensive force for Indiana State (2-1), leading all scorers with 21 points on 8-11 from the floor and 5-9 from the line. He also hauled down nine boards.

Freshman guard Marico Stinson, seeing his most action of the season, was the only other Sycamore in double-figures with 13 points.

IPFW was led by senior guard Quintin Carouthers with 14 points, including three dunks.

Scott chipped in 13 points, while Best added 10 points and nine rebounds.

Cardinals Fight Past Lady Mastodons in Championship Game

Courtesy of IPFW Athletics Department

Muncie, IN - The IPFW Mastodons faced host Ball State in the championship game of the BSU Credit Union Thanksgiving Tournament Sunday afternoon in Worthen Arena.

The 'Dons led at the half, but the Cardinals fought back and took the game, 73-62.

The game started off as a back-and-forth battle before IPFW posted a five point lead at 11:39 after a jumper by Ashley Johnson put the 'Dons up 10-5.

The Cardinals would take away that lead, but a shot from beyond the arc by Hannah Thieke once again put IPFW on top, 10-13.

The Mastodons continued to hold a lead of six points after two good three-pointers by Johnson with just over four minutes left in the half.

IPFW took their largest lead in the half with 41 seconds left. Juliane Höhne's layup put the 'Dons up by nine, 29-20. Two free-throws would cut the 'Dons lead to seven at half, 29-22.

"We had a pretty decent first half," said Head Coach Chris Paul. "Our defensive effort was good, but we could have had a bigger lead if we had made more shots." In the second half, the Cardinals put up eight unanswered points to give them the lead, 30-29.

Ball State would continue making shots, taking a six point lead at 16:14. A shot by Johnna Lewis-Carlisle at 15:52 would cut BSU's lead to four.

It was also their first made shot of the half. At 11:39, the Mastodons tied the game up at 41 on a layup by Samantha Edwards with a 10-6 run by IPFW.

With just over nine minutes left in the game the Cardinals ran out once again to a six point lead, 47-41.

Free throws kept the Cardinals ahead, and at 3:19 BSU took their first double-digit lead, 63-53.

The Cardinals took a 13 point lead with 50 seconds left in the game.

Lewis-Carlisle cut it down to 10 with a three point play.

Ball State would hold onto their lead, defeating the 'Dons, 73-62 in the Championship game of the BSU Credit Union Thanksgiving Tournament.

"The 13-0 run by BSU was the turning point for us. Go-

▶BSU: Page 5

Jaguars Turn Back Mastodons

Courtesy of IPFW Athletics Department

Fort Wayne, IN - The IUPUI Jaguars featured balanced scoring and dominated the boards in a 70-60 win over IPFW on Saturday night at the Memorial Coliseum.

After coming off a 5-OT win against Western Illinois, IPFW looked to make it 2-0 vs. the Mid-Con, but came out sluggish.

The Jaguars (3-3) exploited the IPFW interior to take an early six point lead on a layup by senior forward Angelo Smith.

IPFW whittled away at the lead IUPUI would hold most of the first half, and on successive three-pointers from junior DeWitt Scott, the 'Dons tied the score at 18 with 3:05 to play in a very low scoring first period.

IUPUI used and 11-5 run the rest of the way, including a pair of layins by sophomore forward Fred Kounkorgo and a triple from senior guard David Barlow to take a 29-23 lead at the break.

In the second half, the Jags took their biggest lead of the game, 46-35, after a three-point play by junior guard Austin Montgomery.

From there, it was sophomore guard Kyle Savely turning up the defensive heat.

Savely blocked a shot, stole a pass, and dished out a pair of assists, and IPFW's other sophomore guard Jakari Johnson, hit a triple and converted a steal and layup, to bring IPFW to within three at 54-51. UPUI would answer with a 5-0 run to make it 59-51 with 6:00 left.

The 'Dons (2-4) dug back in again and cut the lead to three on a triple from senior forward Justin Hawkins at the 5:06 mark, but that is as close as the Mastodons would get.

IUPUI would hit their free-throws the rest of the way to top IPFW by 10.

The Jaguars featured four players in double-figures, led by Smith's double-double of 16 points and 10 rebounds.

IPFW got a game-high 13 from Johnson and 11 from senior forward Tyler Best.

IPFW's numbers from the floor were very similar to IUPUI's.

Paid Staff Positions Available for Spring Semester

Students interested in applying for

Editor-in-Chief or Advertising Manager

of The Communicator should submit résumés to Melissa McIntosh, chair, Personnel and Policy Committee, by 5 p.m., December 4.

All résumés should be submitted via email to mcintosm@ipfw.edu.

Interviews to be scheduled for December 6.

▸ BSU
From Page 4

ing from seven up to six down is tough especially when your on the road and facing the host and falling behind. It was a battle, back-and-forth throughout."

Johnson and Lewis-Carlisle were named to the All-Tournament Team for IPFW. Johnson led the 'Dons with 16 points and seven boards.

She added five assists and was 7-14 from the field and 2-3 from beyond the arc. Lewis-Carlisle also hit double-digits with 12 points. She was perfect at the line, 3-3 and had two steals.

Edwards posted nine points and a block in 26 minutes. She was 3-6 from the field and 3-3 at the line.

Overall the Mastodons and Cardinals were almost even on shooting. IPFW hit 44.6% of their shots while BSU was 44.9%. IPFW hit 40% of their three point shots and 66.7% of the freebies.

Ball State went to the line 24 more times than IPFW. The Cardinals were 24-33 and the 'Dons 6-9 from the line.

The Cardinals had four ladies in double-digits. Julie DeMuth (16), Porchia Green (13), Becca Bajorek (11) and Audrey McDonald (10). Lisa Rusche posted nine boards.

"We still have issues with turnovers and fouls. There is a fine line between being aggressive and being silly when it comes to fouls, and cheap fouls don't help the situation. Ball State took 24 more free throw shots than we did because of that."

"But we are improving and heading in the right direction. We'll just look forward to a good week of practice and get ready for Central Michigan."

The Mastodons (3-2) will host Central Michigan on December 2nd at 2 p.m. in the Gates Center.

IPFW will host Ball State, Indiana University and Valparaiso on Dec. 10 for Hoopla: Celebrating Women in Basketball.

The Mastodons will face Indiana at 3:30 p.m. in the Gates Center.

Ball State and Valparaiso will tip-off at 1 p.m..

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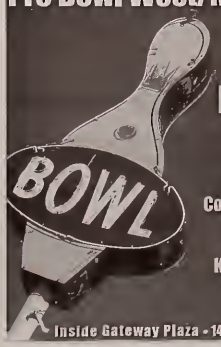

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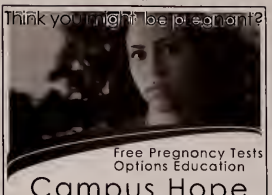
MASTODONS IPFW



Now Hiring!!

Searching for News Editor and Features Editor for Spring Staff at The Communicator

Contact Tracy Kearns, Editor-in-Chief Monday and Tuesday Evenings in Walb 215 or email your resume to keartr01@ipfw.edu

IPSN Inc.
is currently accepting applications for its
Board of Directors.

IPSN Inc. is the governing body of IPFW's student newspaper,
The Communicator.

Current positions are open for two student board members, one faculty/staff board member and one professional print journalist.

Individuals with a background in accounting or marketing are encouraged to apply.

Please submit résumés to Larry Wardlaw, chair, Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, by 5 p.m., December 6.

All correspondence should be directed to larryw@asheragency.com.

Campus Calendar

IPFW

for Nov. 30–Dec. 6, 2006

30 **Biology Thesis Seminar:** "A Herpetofauna Management Plan for a Private Landscape in Southwestern Michigan," John B. Rhine, presenter; SB G69, noon–1 p.m. For information, call 16305.

Study Abroad Information Session: KT 101, 4 p.m. For information, call 16494.

Spotlight on Three Health Sciences Majors: KT 243, 4:30–5:45 p.m. Join representatives from the School of Health Sciences programs of Dental Laboratory Technology, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Human Resources for a general information session and individual breakout sessions. No reservations needed. For more information, contact 16566 or csicskob@ipfw.edu.

1 **2006 Opportunity for Indiana Business Plan Competition Finals:** KT 243; presentations at 9 a.m.; awards ceremony at 1:15 p.m. For information, call 15750.

Biology Thesis Seminar: "The Effects of Berry Extracts on Immune Function and Murine Melanoma Cell Growth," Melanie C. Bush, presenter; SB 185, 12:30–1:30 p.m. For information, call 16305.

IPFW Writers Group: KT G19, 2–4 p.m.; faculty, staff, and grad student writers from all disciplines and departments are welcome to share projects and ideas. December's theme is "Resolutions." For information, call 15740.

Theatre Event: *Purely Dance 2006*, WT, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 16555.

2 **LSAT:** KT 246, 8 a.m. For information, call 14153.

Athletic Event: Women's Basketball vs. Central Michigan, GC, 2 p.m. For information, call 16643.

Theatre Event: *Purely Dance 2006*, WT, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 16555.

3 **Theatre Event:** *Purely Dance 2006*, WT, 2 p.m. For tickets, call 16555.

Holiday Concert: Community Orchestra and Choral Union, Scottish Rite Center, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714.

4 **Spanish Table:** WU Cafeteria, noon. For information, contact confortm@ipfw.edu.

National Student Exchange Information Session: KT G98, noon–1 p.m. For information, call 16595.

Women's Studies Event: "Why take Women's Studies Courses?" WU 222-224-226, 6–8 p.m. Free and open to the public. For information, call 16711 or 16895.

6 **ASAP! Student Discussion Series:** "Motivation," WU 114-116, noon. For information, call 16608.

Intro. to Study Abroad: SB 176, noon. For information, call 16494.

This ad courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor

Features

Wednesday, November 29, 2006
vol. XXXVII, issue XIII

'Student Art in the Library' Competes to Boost Morale and Brighten Helmke

By Tracy Kearns
Editor-in-Chief

Faculty members have found an artistic way to brighten up Helmke Library and boost student moral.

"Student Art in the Library" is a new art competition and exhibit project designed by four IPFW faculty members who are interested in the fine arts as well as the beautification of Helmke Library.

"As you can see, the walls are pretty blank and white," Art in the Library chairperson Jessica Patterson said. "It will make the walls a more interesting place."

Patterson is also the librarian of fine arts and engineering at Helmke and has, along with other library workers, been searching for a way to liven up the library and increase student involvement on campus.

"I think that it will be really interesting to see that a biology major, for instance, does art," Patterson said. "Maybe it will actually bring more people into the library."

Currently, the project is looking for entries of ready-to-be-hung two-dimensional artwork. However, the committee hopes to accept three-dimensional entries in the near future.

"Since this is our first semester, we didn't want to get too crazy," Patterson said. "As a pilot project, you want to see what works first."

The library is planning to install track lighting in order to showcase the winners of the art competitions, which are tentatively planned for summer, fall and spring.

"Since we're new to this–all of us are new to this–we didn't say what we will be judging the artwork on," Patterson said. "We're pretty open."

One requirement Patterson did mention is that entries should be appropriate for public viewing, including children.

"I think students would want their artwork here," Patterson said. "It would be good for their resume. I hope over time more and more people will enter."

Winners of "Art in the Library" will have their artwork hung, with accreditation, at the north side on the library on the first floor, and returned at the end of April.

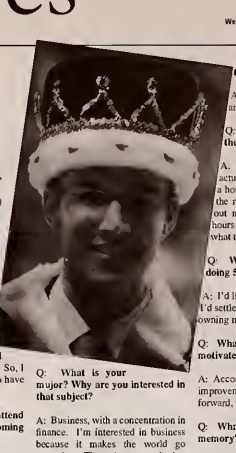
All IPFW students are eligible to enter. Artwork must be brought to fine arts professor Christopher Ganz in room 219 of the Visual Arts building between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7.

Artwork will be judged by Ganz, Patterson, Professor Regina Leffers of the civil and architectural engineering technology program and James Gabbara, professor of visual communication and design.

Notification of the results will be sent by e-mail to entrants on Monday, Dec. 11.

A Fast One-on-One With Homecoming King Nathan Fast

By Tracy Kearns
Editor-in-Chief



Homecoming King and Queen were announced during IPFW's homecoming game on Sunday, November 19 at the Fort Wayne Coliseum. Ambassadon and SAB member Nathan Fast and track athlete and SAB member Nikita Mathews were crowned Sunday afternoon. Fast has given much time to SAB activities and agreed to give The Communicator an exclusive interview concerning his crowning, future plans and dedication to the Mastodons.

Q: What does it mean to you to be voted IPFW's Homecoming King?

A: I consider it an honor, but more than anything, I think that it's really humbling.

Q: What made you run for Homecoming King?

A: Pat Shifely (SAB President) nominated me, and I didn't want to disappoint her. So, I went for it and just decided to have fun with the whole thing.

Q: Are you expected to attend particular events as Homecoming King?

A: SAB is putting on a children's program for Christmas which I'm expected to attend.

Q: Tell us about some of the activities you are involved with on campus.

A: I'm a member of the Student Activities Board, the Ambassadon program, the Finance Society, and Campus Ministry.

Q: What is your major? Why are you interested in that subject?

A: Business, with a concentration in finance. I'm interested in business because it makes the world go around. There is so much that somebody can do with a degree bgsiness, and I like that, because I'm not a fan of limiting my options.

Q: What are some goals that you have accomplished recently?

A: Goals? Well, I've had my eye on qualifying for the Boston Marathon for a while now. I finally qualified at Chicago in October.

Q: What was your time at the Chicago Marathon?

A: Three hours, six minutes, and 55 seconds.

Q: What is your goal time at the Boston Marathon?

A: It's still sinking in that I actually qualified. I just booked a hotel room and registered for the race, so there's no backing out now. I don't know...three hours and five minutes? Oh, what the heck–three hours.

Q: What do you hope to be doing 5 years from now?

A: I'd like to be retired. But if not, I'd settle for traveling the world and owning my own company.

Q: What helps you to be so motivated?

A: Accomplishing goals and seeing improvement. I want to keep going forward, not backward.

Q: What is your favorite IPFW memory?

A: Homecoming week tops the list so far. I had a blast meeting new people and seeing everyone having a great time.

Q: What are your expectations for the future?

A: I'm keeping my options open. That's code for 'I have no idea what the future holds.'

Festival of Gingerbread Displays, Sweet

By Louisa Danielson

Photo By Louisa Danielson

The wonderful, spicy rich scent of gingerbread wafts down the stairs of the Fort Wayne History Center.

It's Christmas time – and it's time for the Festival of Gingerbread, sponsored by the Fort Wayne Historical Society. This year, the courtroom of the old county courthouse (e.g. the History Center) displays 130 gingerbread creations in twelve different categories, from pre-K thru second grade to culinary student and professional. Designs range from the Happy Feet penguins and candy-encrusted trains to a three-story pagoda and the McMahon tire building, complete with Kit Kat car lifts.

The varieties of candy used is dazzling – mints, Twizzlers, chocolate coins, Teddy Grahams, pretzels, shaved coconut pine trees, sugar cookies – there's probably a sample of every type of candy known to Ft. Wayne.

It's also interesting to note the architecture and artistry of the gingerbread. One designer made a three-foot-wide toy box, complete with a stick horse, Etch-a-Sketch and Raggedy Ann doll. A stack of decorated cookies also illustrates "The Twelve Days of Christmas" crowned with 'a partridge in a pear tree.'

But perhaps the most enjoyable displays to see are the kid's creations. There's a baseball stadium filled with roaring Teddy Graham fans, a small Boy Scout campground, a series of pyramids and a scrumptious cottage flanked by two marshmallow snowmen.

It's evident that kids decorated these works with enthusiasm – and their favorite candies.

As part of the gingerbread display, the courtroom is decorated with Christmas trees, pine garlands, lights, and elves and dolls in tiny chairs.

"We started [decorating] on November 8," says Leanne Mensing, coordinator of the Festival of Gingerbread. "It takes us one week approximately to get all the decorations up. I have a men's crew that gets all the stuff and brings it in – garlands and trees. [The] ladies come in and decorate the trees and add all the decorations."

This is the twenty-first year for the festival. Last year, it took 7,000 hours of volunteer work with eighty volunteers.

Some of the decorations, like the elves and dolls, are from the old Wolf and Dessiur store. Paintings from Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" are also on display as a gift from Sam Fletcher, son of the former owner of the Patterson and Fletcher department store.

A doll house maker has even reproduced the Wolf and Dessiur store–complete with Christmas decorations–to be part of the Festival's display.

Adding to the ambience of the gingerbread display is the courtroom itself, with its grand wood paneling and soaring ceiling. Because of a grant, part of the room has been restored to its former grandeur of cream walls with maroon and gold detailing.

However, the process of restoration is labor intensive and exacting – the original paint must be replicated perfectly, using original ingredients. As a result, the grant ran out before the painting job did.

"If you have a million dollars to finish it, we'd be glad to take it," says Mensing.

The Festival of Gingerbread will run through Dec. 9. Exhibit hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Horrorfest: Christmas for the Horror Fan

By Mike Webb

Anyone attempting to see a movie at The Rave from Nov. 17-19 was likely greeted with several movie choices they had never heard of (and likely never will again unless they like to rent low-budget horror flicks). The event was Horrorfest, also going by the moniker of "Eight Films to Die For."

What was so special about these eight films? For one, they would not have been shown if it were not for this event. The Web site claims they are "too graphic or too disturbing for general audiences."

Obviously, they were made to be seen; however, the companies passed on them and the rights for each were snagged by a company known as After Dark Films.

The movies were shown across the states in 500 theaters in only 35 cities. Luckily, one of these was Fort Wayne (don't ask me how that happened).

"Dark Ride," "Reincarnation," and "Unrest" were all shown on Friday night. "Penny Dreadful," "The Gravedancers," and "The Abandoned" followed on Saturday night. "Wicked Little Things" and "The Hamiltons" ended the movie festival on Sunday.

Anyone with a love for Snoop Dogg could check out Snoop Dogg's "Hood of Horror" as a bonus film on Sunday night, but it will not be included in our look at the original eight films (that is the one I didn't go to).

So what about these movies? Are they really so graphic and scary? Well, that depends on several factors such as: what movie(s) were chosen, what type of movies scare you and whether or not you were sitting close to anyone who laughs at scary movies to help keep their cool (there were several of those people).

The majority of these movies were not so scary and I would not expect to see them on their own. They were definitely low-budget movies that were not made to exist within certain taboos.

Take "Unrest" for example. This is a movie that takes place almost entirely in a hospital morgue. The movie is scary due to atmosphere and concept, and there are not many "jump out of your seat moments." However, the imagery is gory and chilling, especially when you consider that some of the body parts represented in the film are rumored to be real.

Then there is Takashi Shimizu's "Reincarnation" (or "Rinne" as it is known in Japanese), a movie about seventeen people who are murdered and are somehow drawn back together in their next life. Like "Unrest," the imagery is often unsettling. But it is the concept that is scary (not to mention the fact that the film feels foreign and will not necessarily feel comfortable to those who are used to the typical Hollywood horror flick).

These movies were not all winners. Anyone unlucky enough to buy a ticket to see "The Gravedancers" knows exactly what I am talking about.

This movie had so much potential, not to mention extremely disturbing-looking ghosts. But it was all ruined by the noticeably horrible acting, the exceedingly cheesy story line, and a supporting character who made bad jokes at nearly every potentially scary moment in the film. Not surprisingly, the audience laughed through most of this one.

I would also place "Penny Dreadful" and "Wicked Little Things" on the list of movies to pass over as well. These movies just didn't seem like they offered anything outside of the norm and aren't even executed in the most effective way.

Surprisingly, "The Abandoned" and "The Hamiltons" ended up being the scariest of the bunch. This is surprising because these were the two movies I knew nothing about and considered not even watching.

I will not give them away other than to say that "The Hamiltons" is a fresh take on an overused concept in cinema and "The Abandoned" has the scariest haunted house atmosphere I have ever seen in a movie. Period.

When these two films come out on DVD, rent them without question. There is talk of these being released individually and together in a package, set within 6-8 months from now.

Anyone into horror movies should consider looking into "The Abandoned," "The Hamiltons," "Reincarnation," and "Unrest"–in that order. "Slasher" fans can also look forward to "Dark Ride," but the rest of the films could slip by without causing too much of a void in anyone's life.

Before I go on, I should discuss why I actually went to all eight of these films.

Perhaps it's because I love horror films. Or maybe it's because this sort of thing doesn't ever seem to happen around here.

But the most likely answer that I would give you is that I just wanted to say that I saw them all in the theater, because not many other people will be able to say the same.

Would I do it all again? The answer is no. I don't know if you have ever seen several movies all in a row over the course of three nights, but as much fun as I had, I found myself missing the ability to do other things (like go to bed and that sort of thing).

Overall, Horrorfest was an enjoyable, non-typical experience. Here's hoping for Horrorfest 2007 (and the one movie I will see, as opposed to all of them).

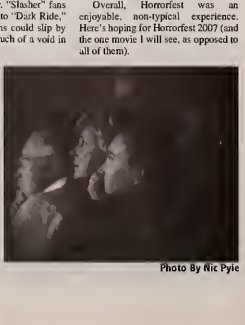


Photo By Nic Pyle